COASTLINE

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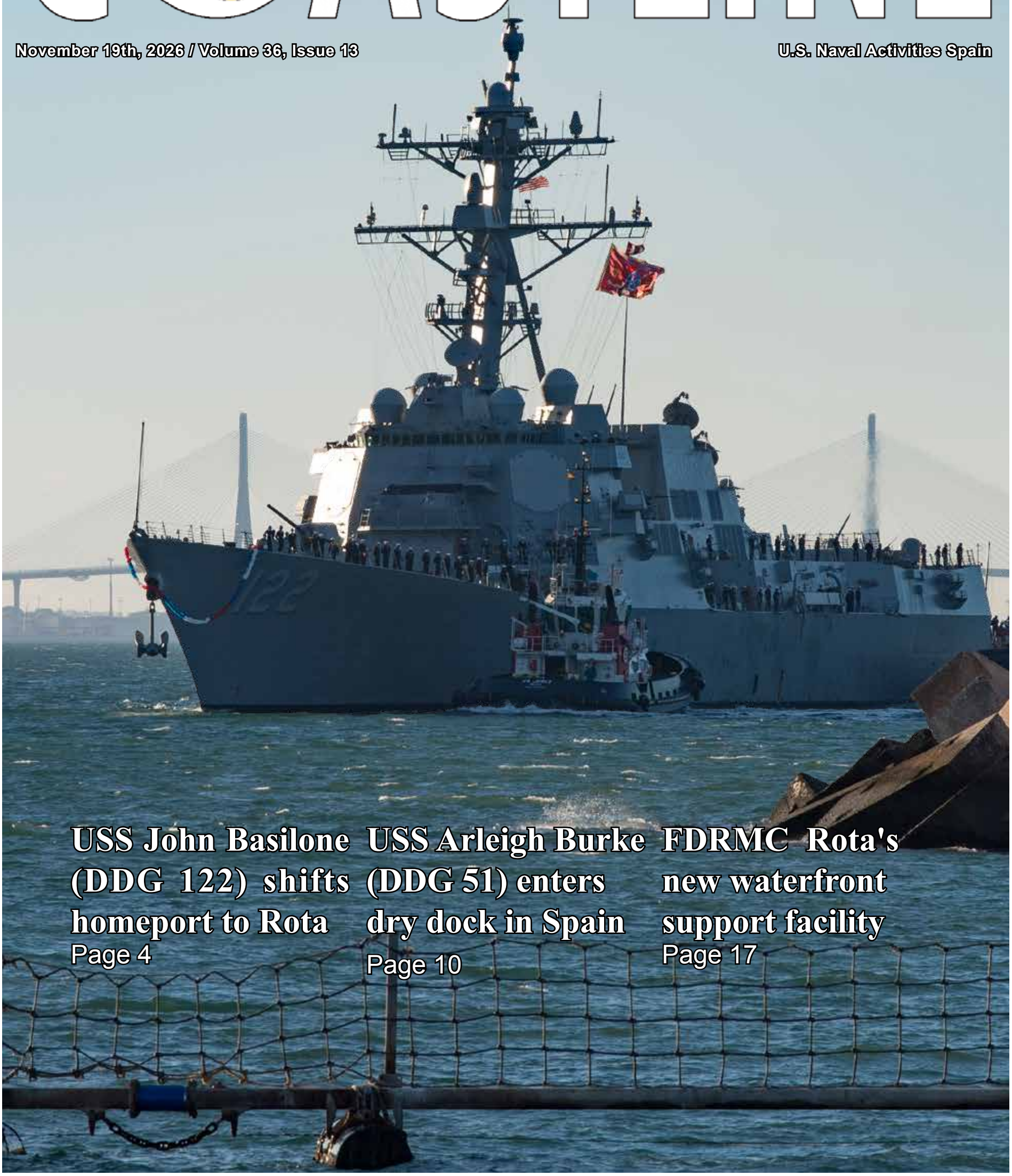

USS John Basilone (DDG 122) shifts homeport to Rota
Page 4

USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) enters dry dock in Spain
Page 10

FDRMC Rota's new waterfront support facility
Page 17

Leadership Corner



Cmdr. T. Max Murphy

Commanding Officer,
USS John Basilone (DDG 122)

Greetings from USS John Basilone! The crew and I are overjoyed to have arrived in our new homeport. The flag-raising event, welcome ceremony, and orientation briefings have shared a common theme of friendship and hospitality. We couldn't ask for anything more.

Our arrival has been years in the making. DDG- 122 was born in Bath, Maine, and commissioned in November 2024 on the west side of midtown Manhattan, across the Hudson River from the homestate of our namesake. Upon entering service, USS John Basilone sailed south to Mayport, Florida. North Florida was home for 21 months. We are grateful to the maintenance and training commands who helped mold our team and achieve success along the way. This past week, we cut the cake during our two- year birthday celebration, and we had a mess deck full of Plankowners! These Sailors have seen John Basilone go from scraps of metal to an operational warship and have seen themselves grow along the way.

I was fortunate enough to be in the crowd at the commissioning ceremony and arrived as executive officer in early 2025. The focus during that year and 2026 was to train, maintain the equipment, and train some more. Cmdr. Matthew Brooks was in command during this transition period and excelled in keeping the crew's focus as our schedule remained in flux and homeport shift loomed on the horizon. His calm and ability to take the long view has paid dividends with our current crew. Change of command took place June 2026 along with executive officer and command master chief turnover. Our new triad jumped in with renewed energy, and John Basilone executed advanced training before crossing the pond.

My own approach to this role has been to treat DDG-122 as a sports team full of athletes, and I have the honor of being player-coach. My philosophy and mantra can be summed up as "Ready, Fight, Win." We need the equipment and Sailors READY to sail. We train beyond the standard because we enjoy the FIGHT. And we will WIN when called upon because our nation depends on us to do so.

In my short time as commanding officer, I have been overwhelmed at the team's capacity to excel, reset, and do it again. I have found that winning momentum is real, and John Basilone is excited to take our place alongside the already impressive U.S. naval destroyers that call Rota home. We know the strong reputation of these ships and the teams who support them. USS John Basilone aims to build on the standard of excellence others have earned. MOVE FORWARD!

Honoring Deckplate Leadership and Our Behind-the-Scenes Heroes

On The Front Cover



Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS John Basilone (DDG 122) arrives at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain, Oct. 14, 2026, completing the ship's homeport shift from Mayport, Fla. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Drace Wilson)

Do You Like to Write or Take Photos?

The Coastline is always looking for guest writers and story ideas. Are you traveling some place fun, attending a sporting event, participating in a workshop or cooking class or leading special training in your office or community? If so, we want to hear from you! Please send story and photo submissions or story ideas to The Coastline at rotacoastline@gmail.com.

Publication is subject to approval.

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Pharmacy Essentials: What You Need to Know

1. How often does the pharmacy order medications, and how long does delivery take?

- The pharmacy orders medications weekly and monitors supply daily. Due to our overseas location, deliveries typically take 14 business days to arrive. Unforseen supply chain issues, including weather or transportation delays, may impact this timeline.

2. What happens if my medication is on backorder or unavailable?

- Sometimes medications are on backorder or are otherwise unavailable for refill. If this happens, we will work with you and your provider to try and achieve the best outcome possible. For medications that treat chronic health concerns (e.g., diabetes, high blood pressure, infections), the pharmacy will work with your provider to find a suitable alternative to ensure your treatment continues uninterrupted.

- In some cases, we may recommend filling your prescription in a host-nation pharmacy. In those instances, our pharmacy will help you navigate obtaining your prescription at a Spanish pharmacy. Please check with your insurance provider in advance to confirm reimbursement eligibility.

3. Are any medications currently in short supply?

- Yes. The manufacturer may say that there is not a national shortage of GLP-1 medications, especially Zepbound; however, the demand far outweighs the supply. We are competing with other pharmacies for the medication. The pharmacy gets allocated a number of units per week set by the vendor or manufacturer. We appreciate your patience as we work to refill our supply.

4. Is there a waitlist for GLP-1 medications?

- Yes. GLP-1 medications are waitlisted. You will receive an "Out of Stock" form with an email address to check your status. Please send an email in 14 days to request a status update.

5. Is Express Scripts (Home Delivery) still available?

- Yes, Express Scripts is a great option that can ship to APO/FPO/DPO addresses and to U.S. embassy/consulate addresses overseas.
- Note: Refrigerated medications and pressurized devices (inhalers) cannot be shipped to APO/FPO/DPO addresses.

6. How much medication can I refill or stock up on?

- While TRICARE does regulate the amount of medication prescribed at one time, we recommend speaking with your provider about the possibility of increasing your medication supply, in most circumstances we are limited to filling to a 90-day supply.

Pharmacy Essentials: What You Need to Know

7. Do controlled substances take longer to receive?

- Yes. Controlled substances (e.g., Concerta, Adderall, Ativan, Xanax, Ambien, opiates) require significantly more time because they require additional clearances from customs.
- To avoid running out of your medications, contact the Pharmacy to request a refill 14 days before your last dose.

8. Can I request an early refill?

- You can check the Medication Refill tab in the MHS Genesis Patient Portal to see when your prescription is ready for refill. Typically, most medications can be refilled when you've used 75% of your supply, while controlled substances are restricted to refill after using 90% of your supply. Please contact the pharmacy if you have questions.

9. Can I fill my U.S. Naval Hospital Rota prescriptions at Spanish community pharmacies?

- Yes, but you'll need to take extra steps to do so.
- You will need:
  - A Spanish-licensed physician's prescription. A local Rota physician can rewrite your prescription for a fee.
  - Your military Identification/Common Access Card (CAC).
  - You'll pay the full amount for your medication when you pick it up from the pharmacy, and then you can submit a reimbursement claim to International SOS.
    - The quickest and most convenient way to submit a claim is through the Express Scripts website. Go to the Express Scripts website and log in to your account. If you don't have an account, you will need to register.
    - Please stop by the Tricare Office in the hospital to get more detailed instructions.

Please ensure your contact information is up to date in MHS GENESIS. For assistance with updating your information, please go to Patient Administration, located at E033/E034.

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NAVAL STATION ROTA, SPAIN

USS John Basilone arrives at new homeport in Rota, Spain

Photos by Amber Courtney-Duncan, Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Alyssa Sperle, and Mass Communication Specialist 1st Drace Wilson

Courtesy Story by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet

Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS John Basilone (DDG 122) arrived at its new homeport of Naval Station Rota, Spain, Oct. 14, joining forward-deployed U.S. naval forces operating in Europe.

John Basilone joins units assigned to Commander, Task Force 65 and Destroyer Squadron 60, supporting regional maritime security operations and routine training opportunities alongside NATO Allies and regional partners.

"Operating in the European theater provides our crews valuable opportunities to project combat power, maintain operational readiness, and defend the maritime approaches to the Homeland," said Vice Adm. J.T. Anderson, commander of U.S. 6th Fleet. "We welcome USS John Basilone and look forward to the ship joining our forward-deployed units."

"We are proud to welcome USS John Basilone and her crew to Team Rota," said Capt. Charles Chmielak, commander of U.S. Naval Activities Spain and Naval Station Rota. “Naval Station Rota remains committed to providing the operational support our Sailors and ships need to remain ready, responsive, and prepared to meet the challenges of an increasingly complex security environment."

Commissioned in late 2024, John Basilone is a multi-mission guided-missile destroyer capable of conducting air defense, anti-submarine warfare, and surface warfare operations. The ship officially transferred homeports from Naval Station Mayport, Florida.

The ship honors Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. John Basilone, who received the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942 and was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for bravery at the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. Basilone was the only enlisted Marine in World War II to receive both decorations.

"Our crew is honored to bring Gunnery Sgt. Basilone's legacy to Europe," said Cmdr. T. Max Murphy, commanding officer of John Basilone. "We are eager to integrate into the Rota community, work alongside our Spanish hosts, and support America’s ability to deter and win future conflicts."

Headquartered in Naples, Italy, U.S. 6th Fleet conducts the full spectrum of joint and naval operations, often in concert with allied and partner forces, to advance shared interests and promote maritime stability in Europe and Africa.



















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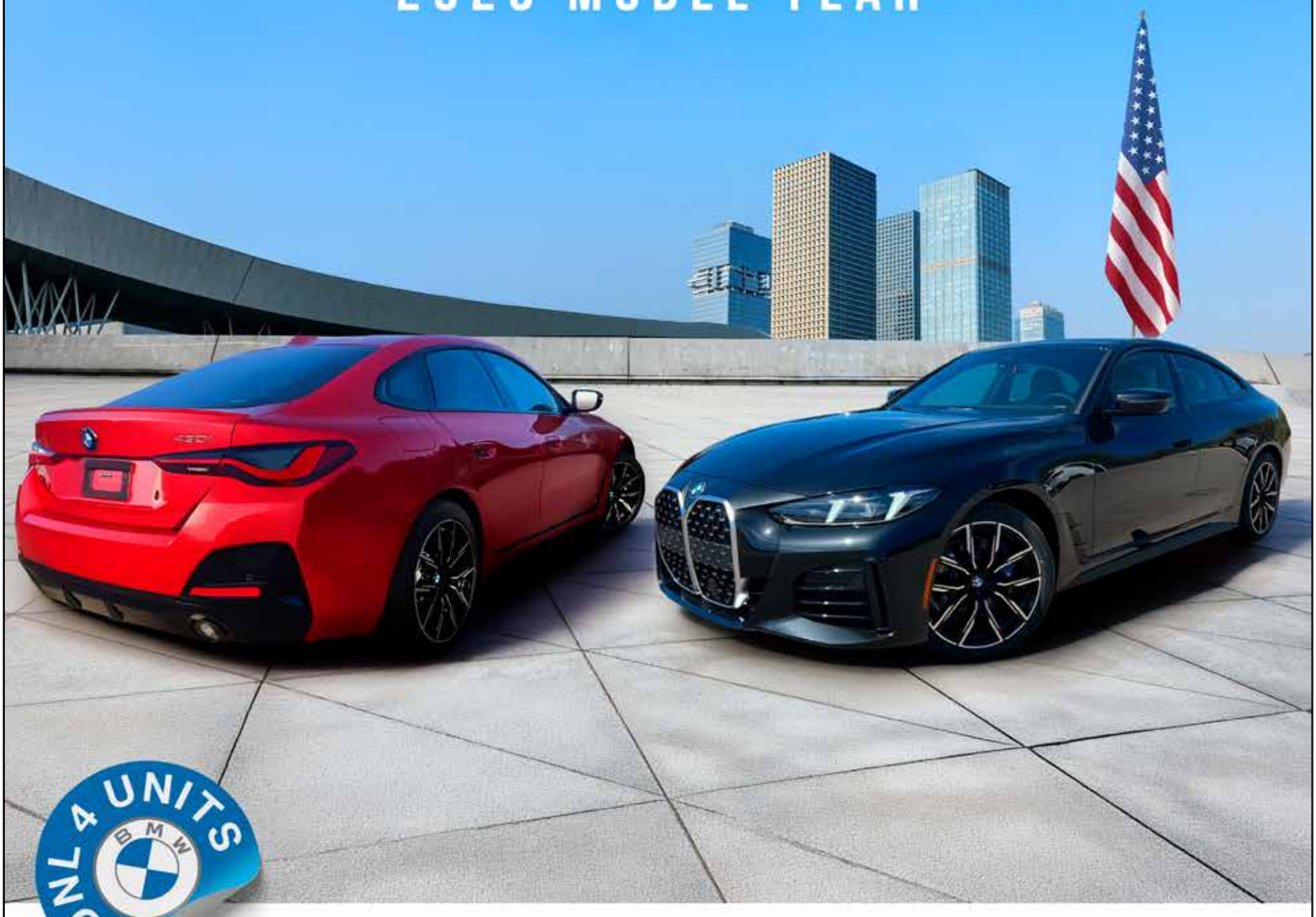

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Rota MWR holds ribbon cutting for new personal storage facility

Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Drace Wilson

Rota MWR held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of their new personal storage facility, Oct. 22, 2026.

These new personal storage units allow installation DoD ID card holders the ability to store their belongings in a secure location with secure 24/7 access.















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In its dental department, patient comfort is a top priority. The clinic offers conscious sedation techniques, allowing patients to undergo implant surgery and other complex procedures with minimal discomfort and anxiety. Its modern facilities are equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including 3D CT scanning, ensuring the highest levels of diagnostic accuracy and treatment precision.



In addition to its well-established dental services and facial and body aesthetic medicine treatments, the clinic continues to expand its offerings with the recent addition of a dedicated hair transplant unit. This new department provides advanced, medically supervised solutions for hair loss, with a strong focus on patient safety and care.

All services are coordinated by a multidisciplinary team committed to providing personalized, attentive care in a welcoming, family-oriented environment, tailored to each patient's individual needs.

See their ad for more info.

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Buffalo sports tavern: the true spirit of texas in Rota.

See their ad for more info.

USS Roosevelt (DDG 80) returns home to NAVSTA Rota

Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Trey Fowler

Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Roosevelt (DDG 80) returned to its homeport of Naval Station Rota, Spain, Oct. 23, 2026.

Friends, family and community partners gave the crew a warm welcome home after a routine 5-month deployment.















USS Arleigh Burke enters dry dock in Spain, expanding Navy's maintenance capability

Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jett Morgan
Courtesy Story by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet



Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) entered dry dock at the Navantia shipyard in Cadiz, Spain, Oct. 7, marking the first such evolution in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations since the arrival of Forward Deployed Naval Forces – Europe (FDNF-E) destroyers.

Facilitating this work locally maximizes operational readiness and availability, and expands forward-deployed maintenance capability.

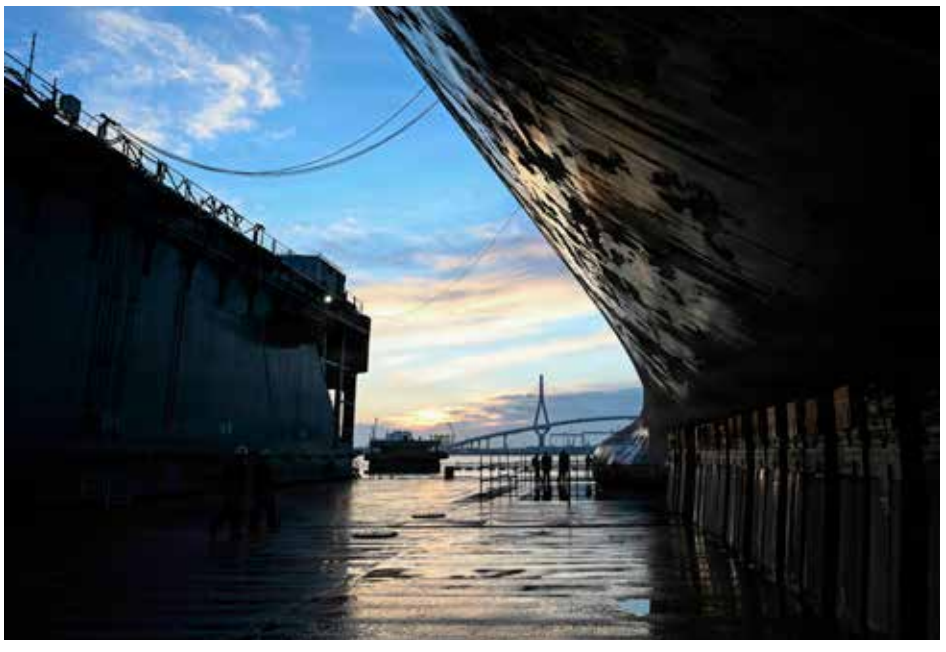
"The dry docking of Arleigh Burke is a major milestone in expanding U.S. Navy forward-deployed maintenance capabilities in Europe," said Vice Adm. J.T. Anderson, commander, U.S. 6th Fleet. "By integrating dry docking into planned maintenance periods overseas, the Navy is increasing material readiness for our forward-deployed warships."

Throughout the availability, Forward Deployed Regional Maintenance Center U.S. military and civilian maintenance personnel and ship's crew are working alongside industry partners at Navantia to execute planned maintenance and modernization.

Arleigh Burke is one of five FDNF-E destroyers stationed onboard Naval Station Rota and assigned to Commander, Task Force 65 as part of the U.S. Navy's support to NATO's integrated air missile defense architecture. FDNF-E ships demonstrate the U.S. Navy's flexibility to operate throughout Europe and Africa, from the Cape of Good Hope to the Arctic Circle, supporting security and stability in the maritime domain.

Headquartered in Naples, Italy, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa operates U.S. naval forces in the U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command areas of responsibility. U.S. 6th Fleet is permanently assigned to NAVEURAF and employs maritime forces through the full spectrum of joint and naval operations.











NAVSUP FLCSI Site Rota Sailors volunteer at local association

Courtesy Photos

Sailors assigned to Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Sigonella - Site Rota volunteered in a community relations beautification project at AFA Puerto (Asociación de Familiares de Enfermos de Alzheimer y Otras Demencias de El Puerto de Santa María) on Nov. 6, 2026.

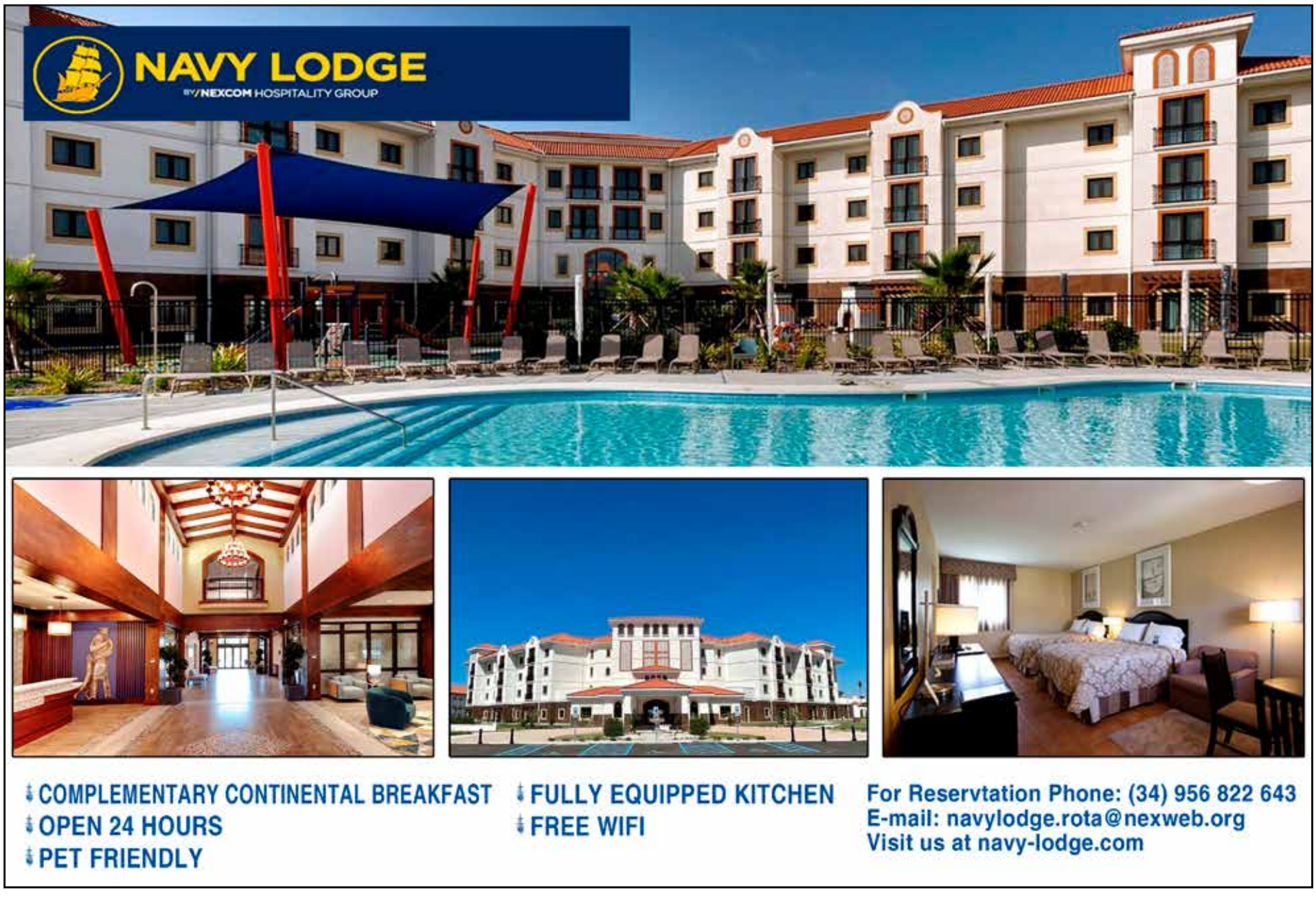












U.S. Sailors & Marines participate in NFL pre-game ceremony

Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Drace Wilson

U.S. Sailors & Marines joined Spanish counterparts to unfurl the American & Spanish flags during a NFL pregame ceremony that took place in Madrid, Nov. 8, 2026.

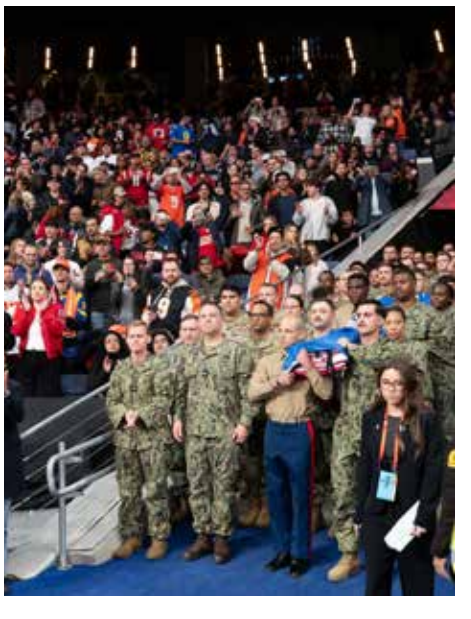
Before heading onto the field, U.S. Ambassador to Spain and Andorra Benjamin León Jr. greeted and spoke with the service members.















Team Rota

MA1 Alexander BarretoRodriguez

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Alexander BarretoRodriguez, from Caguas, Puerto Rico, is a Naval Security Force Trainer assigned to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota, Spain.

"My favorite thing about my job is that it allows me to teach security force sailors various skills, such as emergency vehicle operations and tactical team movements, which allows them to execute their duties and be successful when they're needed."

Before arriving at NAVSTA Rota in 2024, BarretoRodriguez was stationed onboard Naval Weapon Station Yorkton in 2019 and aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76) in 2021.

"My favorite thing about being stationed in Spain is that they speak my native language. I feel like I fit right into the local community here and that I know someone wherever I go. This makes communication and translation at work with our Spanish counterparts easy too. "

Alongside his standard work duties, BarretoRodriguez works as an Assistant Command Fitness Leader, an Assistant Command Duty Officer, as well as helping out with the Command Resiliency Team.

When he's not at work training security department Sailors or leading workout sessions, BarretoRodriguez enjoys spending his time taking photos, learning new languages, and travelling with his family.

"Spain feels like 'my world." I get along naturally with everyone here and I really enjoy helping my friends and coworkers feel more comfortable as they adjust to the culture here as well."

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Chaplain Corner - The Extraordinary Gift of Gratitude

By Chaplain Gregory Johnson
NAVSTA Rota Chapel

Life, in general, is composed of ordinary moments. A daily drive to work, cooking meals for the family, and running errands for a friend are all ordinary. These are events that barely register on the barometer of special occurrences. They do not compare to purchasing a new home, starting college, finding a new job, or traveling to fascinating places of interest. Yet the very ordinary incidents, when reflected upon, provide gracious moments of gratitude. Gratitude is not simply saying "thank you," it is acknowledging a deep appreciation through action for something that has been done or received. It is also being mindful of the importance of what has occurred, noting the significance in our lives.

Gratitude and thanksgiving go hand in hand. It may be challenging to connect the idea of gifts with the season of Thanksgiving. During this season, many will pause and do an inventory of the past year, a year that caused pain, crushed hearts, and created a new normal. The past few years have been anything but ordinary. There have been trials, tribulations, and torments that have shaped our lives for the future. While some may pause to be grateful, others will find being grateful challenging, if not unnecessary.

The season of giving thanks is a great opportunity to recognize the benefits of gratitude. Deepak Chopra and others have noted the relationship between gratitude and spiritual, mental, and physical well-being. Entrepreneur, speaker, and author Luis Romero writes, "In other words, being grateful is equivalent to feeling the presence of the Divine in our lives. It is the same as being in a state of bliss. It allows us to see value, virtue and benefit in everything." The apostle Paul's letter to the Thessalonians provides a deeper insight: "In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NASB).The spiritual practice of gratitude has an impact that reaches further than simply saying, "thank you." While this gracious act is commendable and has positive implications, the spiritual practice of gratitude extends beyond.

While the sacred text repeatedly encourages an attitude of gratitude, now science has proven that there are numerous benefits of gratitude. Scientist Imed Bouchrika observes, "Actual scientific studies prove the benefits of gratitude that contribute to an individual's character development and overall well-being." Practicing gratitude is linked to physical health benefits, including improved sleep, lower blood pressure, motivation to exercise more, better control of glucose levels and improved immunity, to name a few. Studies have also found mental, psychological, and spiritual health benefits of gratitude, including increased self-confidence, resilience, optimism, and patience.

Nurturing an attitude of gratitude in general can be challenging, as fear and uncertainty lingers in the atmosphere. Physicians suggest that it is vital to pay attention to our physical health and our mental well-being. The practice of gratitude is just as important as boosting the immune system with vitamins, vaccines, and proper nutrition.

Gratitude is a gift of palpable potential; it has been used to redirect individuals dealing with depression and low self-esteem. This practice is relatively easy to start. Start by listing three things that you are grateful for. These can be written down daily in a journal. Gratitude journals can be found in bookstores or online. It can be helpful for young adults and children to begin nurturing this practice. As stated previously, it develops character and overall well-being. There is value and virtue in gratitude.

According to Robert Emmons, a leading expert in the study of gratitude, one of gratitude's salient values is it amplifies positive emotions. Unfortunately, many studies indicate that human beings have a propensity toward focusing on, and reacting to, negativity. Yet, as Bouchrika reports, studies suggest that nurturing the practice of gratitude increases dopamine. Dopamine is a natural hormone generated in the brain when we feel good. It is commonly called the feel-good hormone. When we receive praise, dopamine levels increase. The same is true when we are rewarded. Gratitude is a reciprocal reward. As we give thanks, we can also reflect on how thankful we are. This adds value to life.

As we move into this season of Thanksgiving, perhaps it may be of value to begin this spiritual practice of gratitude and continue it as a part of life. While it may be challenging to be thankful when life appears to be alarmingly dreadful, the gift is seeing beyond those frightful experiences. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 challenges us because it encourages gratitude "in everything…" Spiritual maturation comes when we are able to be grateful "in everything." In the worst moments of life, we have the opportunity to practice gratitude. It is in these moments that spiritual growth happens. The effect of spiritual growth from gratitude is resilience—the ability to persevere or bounce back from challenging circumstances.

Gratitude as a daily practice accentuates the best in life and shapes the human spirit to be more mindful of life and focus more on the positive. As we struggle with the rising tide of mental health challenges, gratitude is an extraordinary gift that has the capacity to calm the rising tide. To be effective, it must be a daily practice that goes beyond Thanksgiving Day. Perhaps during the season of Thanksgiving we can share the gift of gratitude, and consciously, consistently apply this undervalued spiritual practice to our lives, after the season.

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EFMP Boo Bash builds inclusive Halloween community at NAVSTA Rota

Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jett Morgan
Story by Lara Colon
NAVSTA Rota Fleet and Family Support Center

On Oct. 28, more than 350 Naval Station Rota community members gathered for Fleet and Family Support Center's third annual Exceptional Family Member Program Boo Bash, an inclusive Halloween celebration combining a sensory-friendly trick-or-treating experience with a communitywide outdoor festival.





Designed for NAVSTA Rota families with medical, mental health, early intervention or special education considerations, the Boo Bash provided a welcoming setting where children and families could enjoy Halloween activities at their own pace.

The event began with an EFMP-exclusive indoor trick-or-treating experience at FFSC. Staff transformed the center into an immersive Minion-themed Halloween space, creating a calm, festive and low-stimulation environment for ghosts and goblins of all abilities to collect treats and enjoy the festivities.

"The sensory-friendly indoor experience is a cornerstone of Boo Bash," said Jessa Quitiquit, FFSC Work and Family Life Supervisor. "It provides EFMP families an opportunity to participate in Halloween festivities in a supportive environment designed with their needs in mind."

The celebration continued in the FFSC courtyard, where the entire NAVSTA Rota community was invited to take part in family-friendly activities. With support from Morale, Welfare and Recreation, 16 commands and community partners hosted games, crafts, interactive displays and educational resource tables. The festival connected families with available installation and local community services while providing opportunities to build relationships across the Rota community.

The United Service Organizations also supported the event through a generous candy donation, helping ensure there were treats available for both the indoor trick-or-treating experience and outdoor festival attendees.

NAVSTA Rota's military family entrepreneurs were another important part of the celebration. More than 20 home-based businesses participated, showcasing handmade crafts, specialty products and culinary offerings. Their participation gave attendees opportunities to shop locally, enjoy food and desserts, and support military-connected small businesses.

The Boo Bash brought together FFSC staff, installation organizations, volunteers, community partners and family entrepreneurs to create an event centered on inclusion, connection and family readiness. The strong turnout reflected the continued value of programs that ensure all members of the military community can take part in shared traditions and activities.

FFSC extends its appreciation to the commands, organizations, volunteers, home-based businesses and families whose support made this year's Boo Bash a success. Through continued collaboration, the event remains a meaningful opportunity for Naval Station Rota families to celebrate the season, learn about local resources and strengthen community ties.







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NAVSTA Rota holds Halloween, Trunk-or-Treat events

More than 1,300 Rota youth participated in Rota MWR's Trunk-or-Treat event, showcasing our communities wonderful costumes and decorations, Oct. 24, 2026

The week afterward, service members and their families living onboard Naval Station Rota, Spain, celebrated the Halloween season with trick-or-treating in family housing, Oct. 31, 2026.



























Congratulations to the Taylor family and the Ernsberger family for winning the house decorating contest!

FDRMC opens new waterfront support facility, expanding Navy's forward foundry

Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jett Morgan
Courtesy Story by Forward Deployed Regional Maintenance Center

Forward Deployed Regional Maintenance Center (FDRMC) Detachment Rota opened its new Waterfront Support Facility 3383 at Naval Station Rota, Spain, Nov. 3, 2026.

The project represents a critical infrastructure investment into Forward Deployed Naval Forces-Europe (FDNF-E) mission readiness. By expanding the waterfront footprint, the purpose-built facility consolidates maintenance management and technical support functions to accelerate maintenance execution for six homeported Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers and deployed ships.

"You cannot have a battle-ready Fleet without a world-class Foundry, and here in Rota, FDRMC Detachment Rota is our Forward Foundry," said Rear Adm. Dianna Wolfson, director of fleet maintenance for U.S. Fleet Forces Command. "This is more than a modern office facility; it gives our waterfront team the space and tools it needs to accelerate maintenance execution and return combat-ready warships back to the Fleet on time."

Built in partnership with Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Europe, Africa, Central (NAVFAC EURAFCENT) and prime contractor Acciona CMS JV LLC, the new facility is engineered to drive relentless execution. By consolidating waterfront operations, engineering, and technical authority, local leadership is positioned to resolve problems quickly on the deckplates. This streamlined environment fosters the outcome-oriented mindset required to deliver combat-ready ships back to the Fleet on time.

"Operational availability is the North Star of the fleet, and this project is a key investment into the Foundry and the shore infrastructure required to maintain our fleet assets and produce maximum lethality at sea," said Cmdr. Cody Keesee, NAVFAC EURAFCENT executive officer. "We are proud to present this high-quality facility to expand the footprint FDRMC will work from to generate the readiness our forward-deployed naval forces need to meet their critical mission support in this region."

The new facility directly supports the Chief of Naval Operations' "Foundry, Fleet, Fight" framework, which underscores that the Navy's ability to project force and sustain combat operations at sea begins ashore at the pier and in maintenance activities. The facility postures FDRMC Detachment Rota to meet growing Fleet maintenance demands following the recent arrival of the sixth FDNF-E destroyer homeported in Rota.

FDRMC provides emergent, intermediate and depot-level maintenance and modernization for deployed and homeported Forward Deployed Naval Forces in U.S. Fifth and Sixth Fleets through fleet technical assistance, voyage repair, contract management oversight, assessments, and diving and salvage.







Fleet Maintenance Director reviews expanding forward-deployed repair capabilities

Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jett Morgan
Story by Ashleigh Whitney
Forward Deployed Regional Maintenance Center

Rear Adm. Dianna Wolfson, director of fleet maintenance for U.S. Fleet Forces Command, completed a visit to Forward Deployed Regional Maintenance Center (FDRMC) Detachment Rota in Spain, Nov. 3-5. She highlighted achievements in international maintenance partnerships, rapid growth in forward-deployed repair capabilities, and infrastructure investments designed to generate and sustain Forward-Deployed Naval Forces – Europe (FDNF-E).

Wolfson celebrated last month's historic dry docking of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) at the Navantia Cadiz shipyard – a first-time evolution for forward-deployed ship maintenance in Europe. Facilitating this complex depot-level work locally with strategic partners at Navantia expands forward-deployed maintenance capabilities while maximizing operational availability. Highlighting the exceptional work required to accomplish this historic first, she hosted an all-hands call to award the team members for their support of the dry docking.

"FDRMC is at the forefront of generating critical warfighting readiness for our ships overseas," said Wolfson. "By expanding forward-deployed dry docking, growing our intermediate-level repair capacity and investing in waterfront infrastructure, we are strengthening the Foundry - the bedrock of naval power - right at the tip of the spear."

Wolfson toured FDRMC's rapidly expanding footprint and engaged directly with waterfront maintainers. She marked the opening of the new waterfront support facility, which consolidates waterfront operations, engineering and technical authority, accelerating maintenance planning and execution for the six FDNF-E ships. Additionally, she toured the detachment's growing intermediate-level maintenance facility - a critical component of the maintenance continuum - where she spoke with Sailors and civilian technicians executing intermediate-level repairs.

"Rear Adm. Wolfson's exceptional support and advocacy for expanding our forward-deployed maintenance capabilities give our team the tools needed to deliver mission-ready ships every time," said Capt. Mollie Bily, FDRMC commanding officer. "It was a privilege to showcase our rapidly growing capabilities, new facilities and the monumental work our team and industry partners executed to dry-dock a ship for the first time in Cadiz."

FDRMC provides emergent, intermediate and depot-level maintenance and modernization for deployed and homeported FDNF in U.S. 5th and 6th Fleets through fleet technical assistance, voyage repair, contract management oversight, assessments, and diving and salvage.











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NAVSTA Rota families represent Guam in Madrid's Hispanic Heritage Parade

Story by Ezekiel Babauta
Contributing Community Member

For the first time in history, the culture of Guam was shown on the streets of Spain's capital thanks in large part to a dedicated group of service members and their families stationed at Naval Station Rota.

On Oct. 4, a delegation of around 20 people with roots in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands marched down Madrid's famous Gran Via as part of the city's annual Hispanic heritage parade. The group included firefighters, Naval Hospital staff, and family members who traveled from the installation to proudly carry the Guam flag and to share their island's rich history with Europe.

The inclusion of Guam in this parade was the result of years of advocacy by cultural researchers and historians that worked alongside Madrid's municipal government. Their goal was to expand the traditional definition of Hispanic heritage which is often solely associated with latin america an the iberian peninsula, to officially recognize spanish cultural realm of the pacific.

Guam and Spain share a deep 500 year history dating back to the magellan expedition. The centuries-long connection has left a mark on the island. Today, elements of Spanish influence remain deeply into the daily lives of Chamoru people, evident in their predominant religion, cultural hospitality and native tongue, with more than half of the Chamorro language derived from Spanish.

Despite these historical ties, many locals in Spain are not aware of the pacific island and its shared heritage. The Rota based families saw this parade as a unique educational opportunity. Dressed in traditional mestisas and ranchero attire, the participants showed a vibrant living display of their island's identity. The event allowed families to bridge the gap between their current host nation and their pacific roots, transforming the march into a powerful display of cultural pride.

The Rota Delegations historic debut garnered widespread attention with the group featured on Spanish, Philippine and Guam television broadcasts.

By stepping up to represent their home, the service members and families at Naval Station Rota have opened a new chapter of cultural exchange between Guam and Spain. Building on the success of this year's landmark appearance, the Rota community hopes to organize an even larger delegation for next year's parade, continuing to share the Chamorro spirit with Europe.















NAVAL STATION ROTA COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

AA on base: "Rota 213" meets Tuesday and Thursday, 1800-1900 (6-7pm) in person in the NAVSTA Rota Chapel (in the back). For meeting information, please contact Cynthia at +34 661 47 95 20 or Dean at +34 674 38 77 55.

AA off base on Zoom: "Rota Drydockers." Every Saturday, 1600 (4 pm) on Zoom only. For information on how to join the Zoom session, contact Cynthia at +34 661 47 95 20 or Joe G. via WhatsApp at: +34 603 84 15 59.

AA in Rota in English: "Rota to Recovery." Every Saturday, 1900-2000 (7-8pm) in person, Calle Bachiller, 11, Rota; parking is available near the marina. For information, please contact Cynthia at +34 661 47 95 20 or Dean at +34 674 38 77 55.

Al-Anon Meetings

Have you been affected by another person's drinking? If so, please join us every Wednesday at 1600 (4 p.m.) at the base chapel nursery for an Al-Anon meeting. The only requirement for Al-Anon membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend. For info on meetings, please contact Naydene at +34 669 09 7149.

American Red Cross

Mon - Fri, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to stop by the office and CPR courses are now being offered. Days and times of the courses will be posted on our FB page. For more information, call us during business hours at DSN 727-2333 or commercial, +34 956-82-2333, or visit our Facebook page, @RedCrossRota.

American Red Cross Emergency Communications Service

Red Cross Emergency Messages services operate 24/7. If you have a family emergency during business hours, call us immediately at DSN (314) 727-2333 or +34 956-82-2333. After hours or on weekends, our national call center can be reached at +1 (877) 272-7337. Messages can also be initiated online, at https://www.redcross.org/military-emergency-communication.html

Rota Education Center

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and University of Maryland Global Campus offices are open and able to assist you in reaching your education goals. The Rota Education Center is located on the first floor of the Community Services Building (Bldg. 3293).

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS)

When you are having trouble meeting urgent financial needs, NMCRS may be able to provide an interest-free loan or grant. Through financial counseling, we will also help you plan for better financial stability. Our services are completely confidential. If you are approved for a loan or grant, you will receive funds immediately. There is no application fee and the appointment is completely free. If you need $1,000 or less, you may be eligible for our Quick Assist Loan.

NMCRS Business Office

Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Office: DSN 727-1614 or +34 956-821-614
After Hours Duty Cell: +34 660 984 511
After Hours Emergency Assistance: +1 (877) 272-7337
Email: rota@nmcrs.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/nmcrsrota

NMCRS Thrift Shop

Hours of Operation

Monday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Thursday: 3-6 p.m. (third Thursday / active duty + dependents only)
Third Saturday of month: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

NMCRS Casework and Classes

Casework Appointment: For active duty Navy, Marines, retirees, and dependents, the NMCRS can help you with financial relief. This can be used for emergency travel, basic living expenses (BLE), pet OCONUS, auto, household set up, and more.

Budget for Baby Class: Are you a new or prospective parent? Join us in-person to learn important budgeting skills for your new addition! Parents will learn about military pay fluctuations, baby expenses, consumer pressures targeting new parents, and entitlements available through government and private sources. This class is now open to both active duty and government civilian families. All participants will receive a layette and a handmade baby blanket. Families will also receive a $50 Amazon gift card. To register, visit http://linktr.ee/nmcrsrota and select the desired class and date.

Command Classes: We offer financial classes for groups and commands. Our caseworkers can come to you, or we can hold the classes in our classroom. Call or email our office to schedule one of these classes.

Upcoming NMCRS and Hospital maternal programs and classes:

The Visiting Nurse program includes home and virtual visits, classes, and community support groups for active duty, retirees, and their families. The Visiting Nurse provides health education, resource referral, and support for prenatal and postpartum, newborn care, breastfeeding, pediatric, adult, and geriatric health concerns.

NMCRS: VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Are you interested in volunteering in the NMCRS office or Thrift Shop? We have several opportunities to grow your resume while contributing to our community! We also reimburse for childcare and mileage. Apply to volunteer online at http://linktr.ee/nmcrsrota and join us for a monthly volunteer orientation. NMCRS Rota is looking for blanket makers and Thrift Shop volunteers.

Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities

Child Find for children three to five years of age is an ongoing outreach program that locates and identifies children who may have developmental delays or educational disabilities and need special services. If you have concerns regarding your child's development, please contact DSN 727-4185/4435 or commercial, +34 956-82-4185/4435.

Retired Activities Office (RAO)

Fleet and Family Support Center, Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., by appointment only, +34 956 82 3232.

RAO serves as a link between the military retired community and other government agencies, such as Federal benefits Unit for Social Security and Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Veterans Administration (VA), and Office of Personnel Management (OPM). RAO provides assistance to survivors regarding pensions and benefits and is a source for information about retiring and living in Spain.

USO Rota

The mission of the USO is to strengthen the well-being of America's military service members and their families. At USO Rota, we are dedicated to this mission by offering a variety of events and services—all free for active duty service members and their families.

Our center is conveniently located inside the Air Terminal and is open Monday through Friday, from 0830 to 1630. We invite you to join us for any of our events or stop by for a visit!

Interested in giving back? The USO is a fantastic organization for volunteering. To get started, fill out your volunteer profile at VOLUNTEERS.USO.ORG.

For all USO Rota events and more, follow "USO Rota" on Facebook at www.facebook.com/USORota.

WIC Overseas

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Overseas is a nutrition education and supplemental food program that aims to improve the overall health and wellness of families for active duty service members and their dependents, DoD civilian employees and their dependents, DoD contractors and their dependents. Basic nutrition and health screenings, drafts to be redeemed for nutritious foods, access to resources & tips that help you and your family lead healthier lives, healthier birth weights for babies, reduced anemia rates for children, breastfeeding support, breast pump loan program, breastfeeding/pumping room open to everyone. Call DSN 727-2921 or commercial, +34 956-82-2921, for more information.











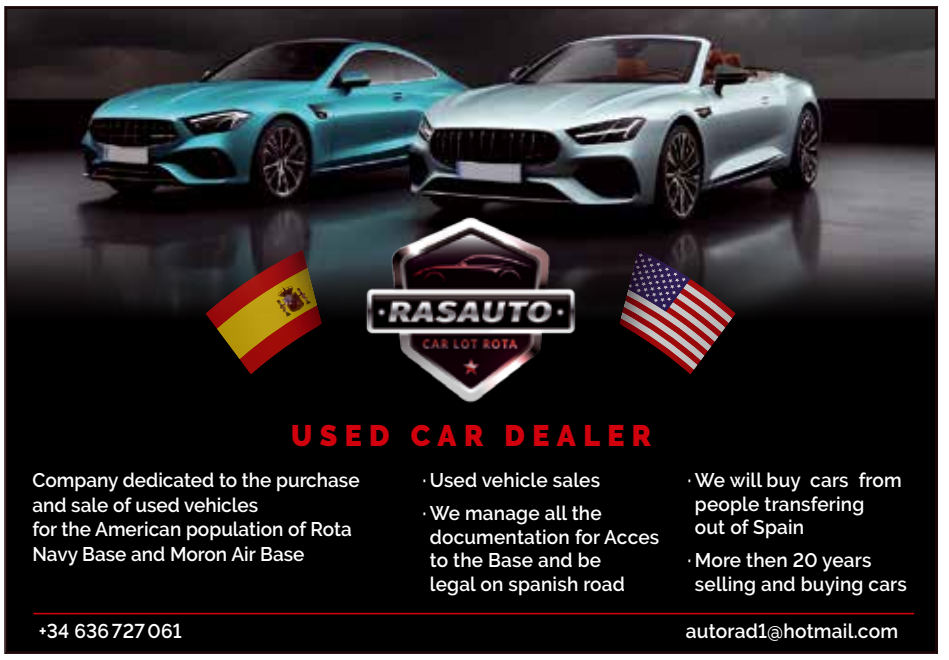

Protestant Director of Religious Education

CONTRACT OPPORTUNITY

The Naval Station Rota Chapel is seeking **ONE** contracted **PART-TIME** Protestant Director of Religious Education (approx. 25-30 hours per week, varying).

The anticipated qualifications are:

REQUIRED: The contractor shall possess legal status to reside in Spain and work with US Forces in Spain throughout the duration of the contract (i.e., possession of a TEI card)

REQUIRED: Have the ability to pass a criminal background check as set forth in DoDI 1402.5 and CNREURAFCENTINST 1700.3 - Chaplin Volunteer Background Check Procedures.

REQUIRED: The contractor shall have a minimum of one year of experience teaching/working in a military or civilian Christian religious education program.

REQUIRED: The contractor shall possess a professional working knowledge of current Christian scripture, educational methods, curriculum planning, student learning process, psychology or learning, as well as technology in the classroom, and literature.

REQUIRED: The contractor shall have the professional aptitude and human relations skills to lead and manage a religious education program, including recruiting, training, and leading volunteer teachers and religious education assistants

DESIRED: The Contractor shall possess knowledge of procurement and material purchasing in order to research, advice, recommend all purchases required for the successful implementation of the Protestant Religious Education Program.

NOTE: The selectee will be an independent contractor. The Government provides no fringe benefits. The contract will be for a one-year base period with the option to extend for an additional year and, two (6) month option periods for a total potential period of performance of (3) years.

Interested contractors that meet the above qualifications shall contact NAVSUP contracting office by email at Melissa.e.ferri.civ@us.navy.mil and julius.j.arrascue-pastor.civ@us.navy.mil as soon as possible in order to obtain a full copy of the Request for Quote and other related documents. The estimated deadline to submit quotes will be on or around 08 December 2026

*** Prospective applicants must registered in SAM.gov in order to be eligible to receive a contract award: https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration.






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Service members, Spanish and American firefighters compete in Fire Muster Challenge

Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Drace Wilson

Fire Prevention Week 2026 kicked off with various military units and firefighters onboard Naval Station Rota, along with Protección Civil firefighters from Rota, competed in the annual Fire Muster Challenge, Oct. 7.

The team of Marines assigned to Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team Company Europe took home the gold after a morning of relay races, bucket brigades, and fire truck pulls.



















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NAVSTA Rota Baby Births

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5 lbs 9 oz
Born on July 30th, 2026
Congrats to David & Roberta Paz

Charlotte R. Oliver

8 lbs 11 oz
Born on Oct. 2nd, 2026
Congrats to Skylar & Haley Oliver

Adriel L. Fisher

7 lbs 7 oz
Born on Nov. 2nd, 2026
Congrats to Joycelyn & Trevor Fisher



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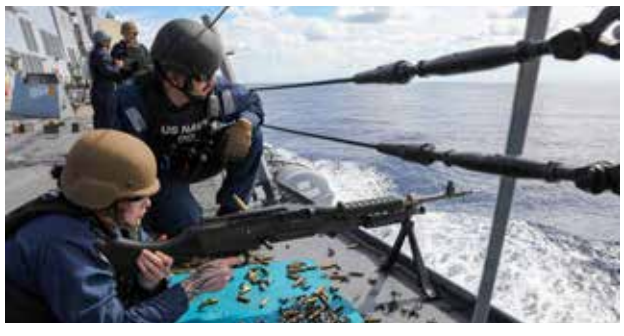
USS Paul Ignatius conducts underway operations

Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Askia Collins







Live fire exercise









Restoration-at-sea









Small boat operations



NAVY FAMILY OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

The Fleet & Family Support Center

Navy Family Ombudsman Program is designed to provide better and faster communication between Navy families and Navy leadership. Navy commands and all deploying units, including the reserves have an Ombudsman, typically a spouse of one of the command's active-duty members. **Ombudsmen** are official, appointed, liaisons between commanding officers and families. They can expedite communication between the command and families. In addition, Ombudsmen provide information on services, upcoming events, and/or help in crisis situations. **Air Force Key Spouses** & **Family Readiness Assistants** are similar to Ombudsmen, support service members, their families, and command leadership. Contact your command's representative to be added to their distribution list.

Ombudsman Coordinator Fatima M-Nicholson (fatemeh.majidi-nicholson.naf@us.navy.mil)

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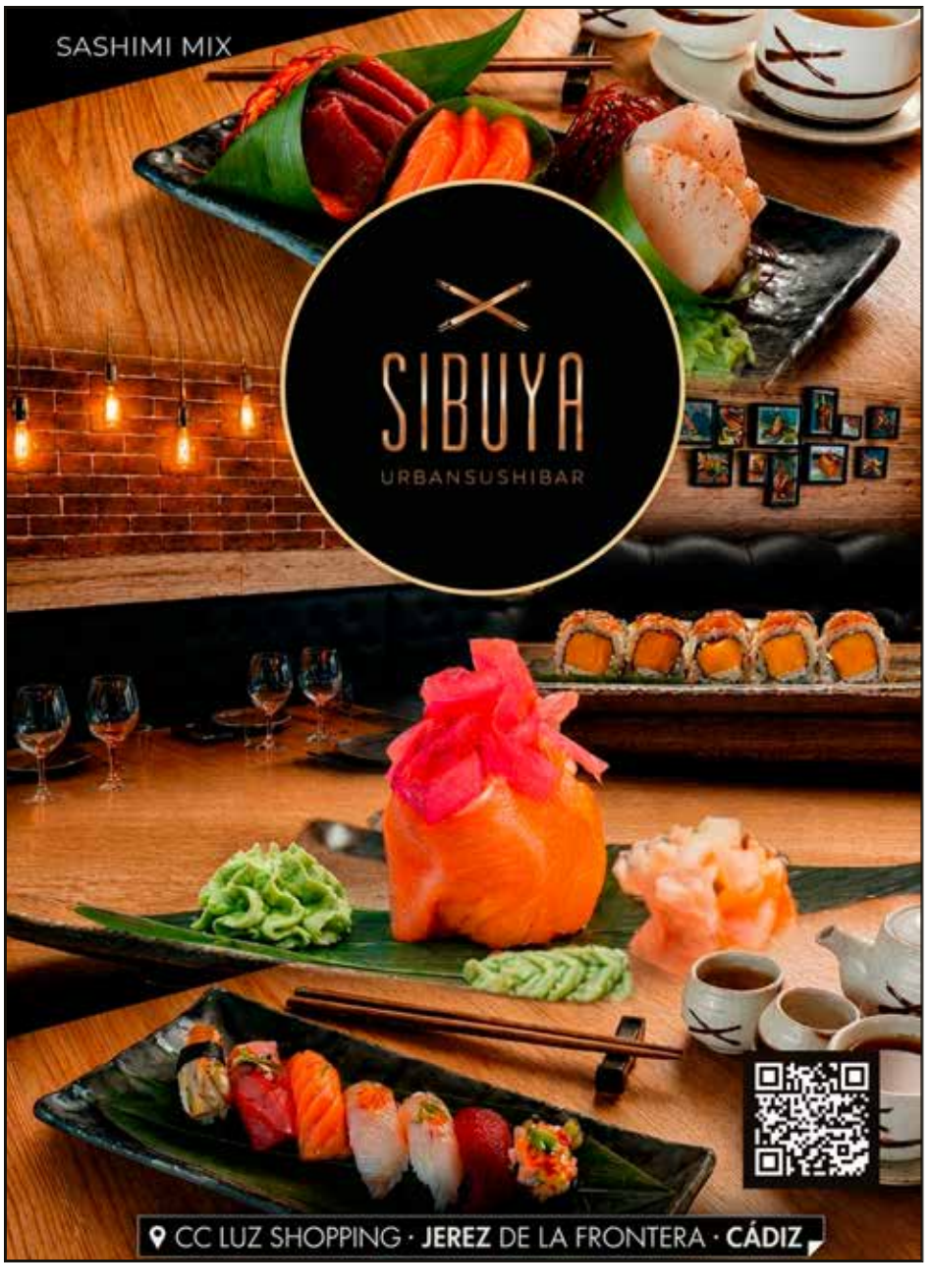

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USO hosts welcome barbecue

The USO Rota team hosted a welcome barbecue for the Sailors aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS John Basilone (DDG-122) and their families, Oct. 23, 2026.

Attendants enjoyed Spanish tapas, hamburgers, outdoor games, and plenty of camaraderie. Food was also delivered to the Sailors standing watch onboard the ship.











USO's "A Little Pumpkin is on the Way"

USO Rota hosted "A Little Pumpkin is on the Way," a baby shower and networking event for new and expecting military mothers.

Attendants played games, received gifts, and connected with one another over food!











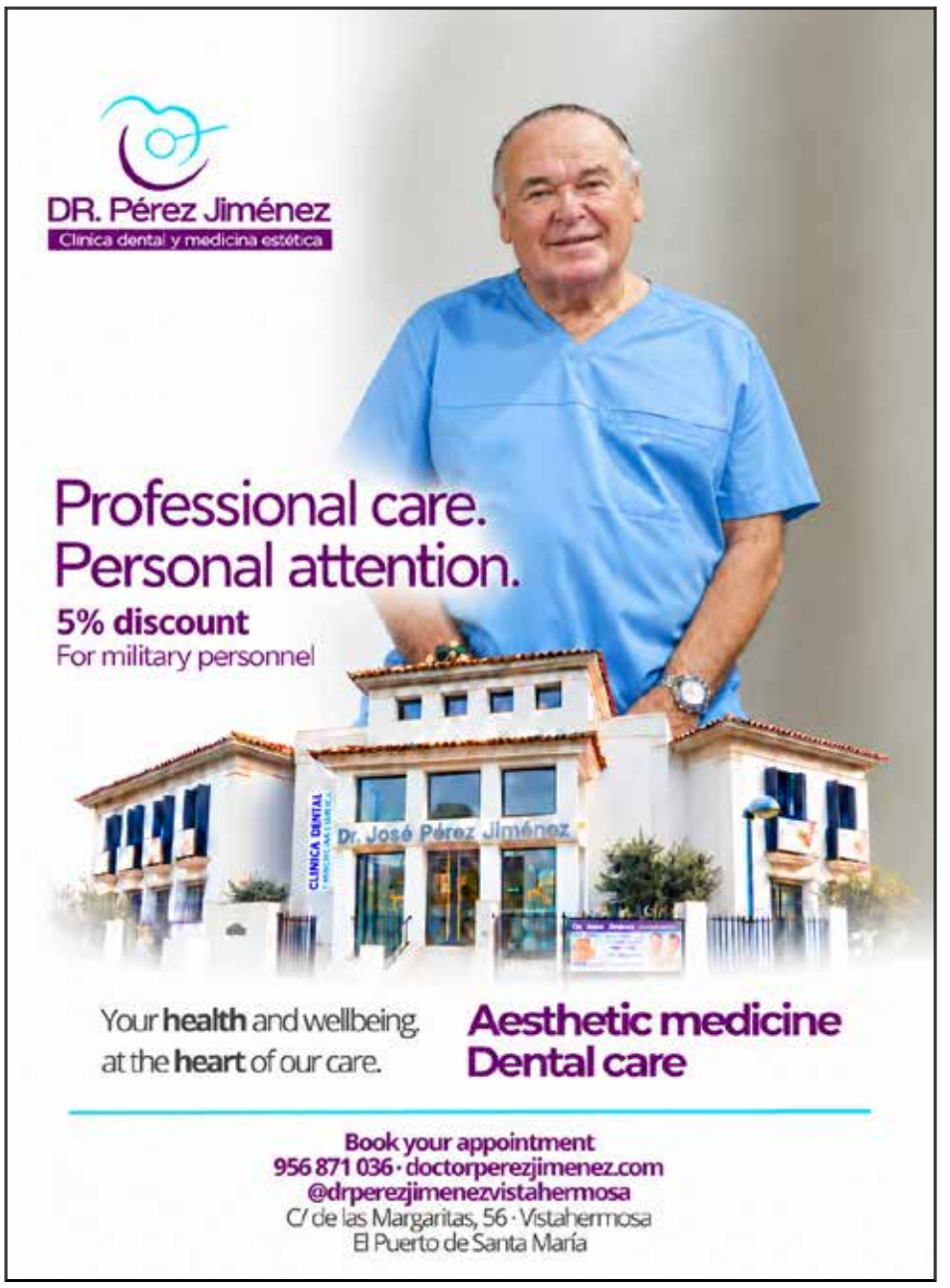

Let's Eat!

By Pilar Ruiz

Thanksgiving Leftover Turkey Empanada

An American tradition with a Spanish twist



Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to gather with family and friends and enjoy a delicious turkey dinner. But what can we do with all that leftover turkey?

In Spain, we love making the most of our leftovers and turning them into new, delicious dishes. One of our favorite ways to do this is by preparing a homemade empanada, a traditional Spanish savory pastry filled with meat, fish, or vegetables.

Today, we're sharing a family recipe that we usually prepare with leftover turkey from our Christmas celebrations. We've adapted it especially for Thanksgiving, combining an American holiday tradition with a little taste of Spain.

Ingredients:

2 sheets of puff pastry

2–3 cups of cooked leftover Thanksgiving turkey, finely chopped or shredded

2 garlic cloves, minced

1 leek, finely chopped

1 onion, finely chopped

4 ripe tomatoes, peeled and grated, or approximately 17 oz (500 g) of crushed tomatoes

1 red bell pepper, finely chopped

2 bay leaves

A pinch of dried thyme

½ cup (125 ml) dry white wine

½ cup (125 ml) mild olive oil

1 tablespoon Spanish sweet paprika

Salt and black pepper, to taste

1 egg, beaten, for brushing

Preparation:

Preheat your oven to 350°F (180°C).

Finely chop the garlic, leek, onion, and red bell pepper. Peel and grate the tomatoes if using fresh ones.

Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and leek, followed by the garlic and red bell pepper. Cook until the vegetables are soft and lightly golden.

Pour in the white wine, stir well, and allow it to simmer for a few minutes so the alcohol evaporates.

Add the grated or crushed tomatoes, Spanish sweet paprika, bay leaves, and thyme. Season with salt and black pepper.

Let the mixture simmer for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the sauce thickens slightly.

Add the chopped leftover turkey and mix well so it absorbs all the wonderful flavors. Cook for a few more minutes.

Remove the bay leaves and transfer the filling to a large strainer to drain any excess oil or liquid. Allow it to cool slightly.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Place one sheet of puff pastry on top and gently roll it out if necessary.

Spread the turkey filling evenly over the pastry, leaving a small border around the edges.

Cover with the second sheet of puff pastry and press the edges together to seal the empanada.

Prick the top gently with a fork to allow steam to escape, and brush the surface with the beaten egg.

Bake for approximately 30 minutes at 350°F (180°C), or until the pastry is golden brown and crispy.

Let it rest for a few minutes before slicing and serving.

A Tip to Take Home

This empanada is delicious served warm or at room temperature, making it perfect for a family lunch, a casual dinner, or even a picnic.

You can also prepare individual mini empanadas using the same filling.

And remember: great cooking isn't just about creating delicious meals. It's also about making the most of what we already have!

Happy Thanksgiving and happy cooking!

Pilar and Cristina

Aprendiendo a Cocinar – Rota, Spain



Atlanta Falcons cheerleaders visit NAVSTA Rota, NSE Madrid

Courtesy photos by Shelby Swafford and Alfonso Barona

Naval Station Rota had the pleasure of hosting the Atlanta Falcons cheerleaders for a youth cheer event and a meet & greet, Nov. 12

Before that, U.S. National Support Element Madrid welcomed the cheerleaders as they hosted a pep rally for service members and their children, Nov. 10.



















Ask the Tax Guy! - Help stop refund surprises

By Richard Griffith
Community Tax Professional

As I reflect on the previous tax year and prepare for the upcoming 2027 Tax season, here are several tax tips to help prevent future surprises in your tax returns.

Leave and Earnings Statement to W-2 to Tax Refund

What is the relationship between your Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), your W-2, and your federal and/or state refund? I have been asked on numerous occasions the same question from clients who have a surprised look on their face: “Why do I owe money, or “Why is my return so low?” when their taxes are done. I give the same answer: if you don't pay attention to your federal and state withholdings on your LES, you will get that surprised look.

Then I explain that the basic general rule for tax refunds (standard return) is the more federal or state withholdings, the less you make every month but the bigger refund, and the exact opposite: if you have small federal or state withholding, then your tax refund will be smaller, or you will owe but you make more during the month. There is no exact percentage for how much federal, or state withholdings should be deducted. Still, I tend to recommend the eight to ten percent rule of federal withholdings from your yearly salary.

If you decide to change the withholding amounts, you'll need to update the W-4 through DFAS myPay system or your pay administration so it can be reported to the IRS. Remember, for military, DFAS is only a conduit to the IRS, and DFAS will report whatever changes you make to the IRS. It is not DFAS’s responsibility to ensure tax withholdings are correct.

Monitoring the LES should be a monthly routine practice, especially when there is a promotion or a change in pay entitlements.

Changing tax your withholdings now will have little impact on the 2026 W-2 and your tax return but will affect the 2027 W-2 and your tax return and should prevent a tax surprise.

Each person is different, so I highly recommend talking to your financial counselor, command financial specialist or your tax advisor.

IRS Individual Online Account

Why is it important to create an IRS account online?

Permanent Change of Station is part of military life, and these life-changing events happen at any time. What doesn’t happen is updating addresses from previous duty stations, especially with the IRS or State Tax Revenue offices. These agencies often send indebtedness notification letters, and the taxpayer never receives them because of an old address. If a debt is owed and the taxpayer never receives notice to resolve it, the debt will incur interest and penalties on a monthly basis, whether or not the taxpayer received the letter.

Creating and monitoring an IRS online account is another tool to help prevent tax surprises. Below are the links to create an account:

www.irs.gov/newroom/irs-individual-online-accounts-an-easy-tool-for-taxpayers

www.irs.gov/payments/online-account-for-individuals

An IRS Individual Online Account allows:

- Notification letters
- View key tax return information, such as their adjusted gross income;
- Request an identity protection PIN and access it throughout the year;
- Check the status of their refund;
- Confirm the status of their amended return;
- Get account transcripts, including wage and income records;
- Approve power of attorney and tax information authorization requests;
- Make and cancel payments; and
- Set up or modify payment plans and check their balance

Plus, the IRS Individual Online Account allows access to and the ability to download certain tax documents online, including:

- Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement;
- Form 1095-A, Health Insurance Marketplace Statement;
- Form 1099-NEC, Nonemployee Compensation;
- Form 1099-DIV, Dividends and Distributions;
- Form 1099-INT, Interest Income; and
- Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Information

This also pertains to State Tax Agencies. Highly recommend creating state online accounts.

Enforcement Resident and Nonresident Classification Status for States

Starting the next tax season, some states have changed how they categorize military and DoD Civilian personnel’s nonresident status. How does this affect filing state taxes?

As of now, I know of two states that have changed how they view nonresident status for military and DoD Civilian personnel assigned to work overseas. Virginia and North Carolina now classify military and DoD Civilian members whose home of record is in the state, or who have a state driver’s license, as residents, regardless of where they are stationed. That means they will tax your military or civilian pay as locally sourced income, which will affect your refund or you could owe money. If you have a driver’s license from another state but still claim Virginia or North Carolina, you might consider changing your state residency, but keep in mind this change could affect other states as well.

Tax Deadlines

Depending on where you were deployed or stationed overseas, the IRS grants an automatic extension of up to 180 days to file your taxes.

If you are deployed to a combat zone, the 180-day automatic extension begins the day you depart the combat-designated zone. One note: If you were deployed to a tax-free zone, make sure your W-2 has a “Q” code in box 12 before you file your taxes.

If you are stationed overseas, the IRS grants a 60-day extension to file U.S. taxes, with a caveat. In other words, the filing deadline for US taxes will be on 15 June instead of 15 April. One exception: if you owe money, you must pay something by 15 April, or you will incur monthly interest charges; after 15 June, you will also incur monthly penalty charges as well.

If you need another extension, you must submit an extension form to the IRS, which will grant an extension until 15 October or under special cases longer.

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